

The Plattsmouth Journal.

VOL. NO. XXXVII.

PLATTSMOUTH, NEBRASKA, THURSDAY, JANUARY 6, 1921.

NO. 98

FIRE CAUSES DESTRUCTION OF BUILDING

STRUCTURE OWNED BY JESS F. WARGA AND OCCUPIED BY HIS BUSINESS BURNS

One of the worst fires that has visited the city in many months occurred early Sunday morning when the building owned by Jess F. Warga and located between Fifth and Sixth streets on Main, was wiped out by the raging flames in a very short time.

The fire had evidently originated in the rear portion of the second floor of the building which was occupied by John P. Sattler as an undertaking room and when first discovered it had gained great headway. The first intimation of the fire was when Dick Allen, the taxi driver, saw the vast clouds of smoke roll out of the front of the building shortly before 1 o'clock and gave the alarm. In a short time the whole interior of the upper floor was a roaring furnace of flames which spread rapidly to the lower floor of the building as the second story caved in.

The building was one of the oldest on Main street and the structure was very inflammable as it was constructed entirely of wood and furnished an easy prey to the eager flames.

More or less trouble was experienced at the outbreak of the fire in getting the alarm to the shops and the cries of persons seeing the smoke soon had the fire truck on the scene and the members of the fire department who were on hand attempted to get onto the job as effectively as possible and to check if possible the blaze spreading to the adjoining buildings, as the burning building was situated in the middle of the block and for a time the store of Weyrich & Hadraha as well as the Ladies Toggery of F. P. Busch were threatened by the increasing force of the fire.

While the fire department was able to reach the lower floor with a stream of water, the second floor, where the worst of the fire was located, was hard to get at and there the flames held full sway and were checked only at the front of the building. The blaze seemed the worst in the center of the structure and there the floor of the second story collapsed as the roof fell in, making a complete wreck of the building.

So far as could be learned there can be no explanation made as to the cause of the fire as the building had been closed since Friday, owing to the holiday, and on the second floor where the fire was the worst, there were no stoves or wiring that might have caused a fire.

The loss to the owner of the building will be quite heavy as there was only \$6,000 insurance carried by Mr. Warga on the building and his stock of goods and he had a large amount of high priced electrical equipment and appliances on hand, the greater part of which were entirely wiped out.

Mr. Sattler had a large number of caskets as well as Pathe musical instruments in stock and these were all destroyed or so badly damaged as to make them a total loss. He has \$1,500 insurance on the stock, but this will not near cover the loss.

The fire raged until nearly 2:30 o'clock before a scaly wind extinguished and as a result the building now stands practically gutted and it will require a new structure to replace the burned building.

In this fire as at a number of others that have occurred there seemed to be a fire of authority that tended to check the effectiveness of the fire fighters and led to more or less confusion and delay in getting the full force of the fire fighting equipment on the source of the fire.

The fighting of the fire was a very strenuous job and the workers were soaked by the streams of cold water and several had narrow escapes from injury during the height of the fire when the roof of the building fell. A. F. Braun was the only one reported as seriously injured, he suffering from a scald wound received from the glancing blow from one of the hand axes.

The stock of goods in the Ladies Toggery was quite badly damaged by smoke and the lines of high class silks and fine fabrics of many of the ready-to-wear dresses were affected by the thorough smoking and the whole stock suffered a greater or less extent from the effects of the smoke. The cellar of the Toggery store as well as that of Weyrich & Hadraha suffered to some extent from the water that forced its way in from the basement of the burned building.

THREE ARE BAPTISED.

From Monday's Daily. Last evening at the Christian church there was received into the church three members who were given the sacrament of baptism by the pastor, Rev. A. G. Hollowell. The attendance at the service was the largest at any evening service for several months and much interest shown in the reception of the new members into the church.

PASS YEAR OUT MERRILY.

The passing of the old year 1920, was speeded on in merry fashion Friday evening at Coates hall on the occasion of the carnival ball given by the Cosmopolitan club and from early in the evening until the passing of the midnight hour the merry dancers enjoyed the time in bidding farewell to the passing year. Horns, fancy carnival caps as well as the streamers of paper and the loads of confetti were in evidence as the carnival spirit was made evident by the jolly crowd.

The Holly orchestra was on hand to dispense the favorite jazzy classics and the new song hits and were up to their usual high standard and pleased everyone.

WATCH OUT THE PASSING YEAR

Services at Methodist Church Friday Evening Very Largely Attended and Great Interest Shown.

On Friday evening the Methodist church was the scene of a very pleasant New Year's watch party, as has been the custom of the church for the past twenty-five years. The watch parties have in the past been held at the home of the Westcott family, "Sunnyside", but this year a diversion was made from this custom and the event held in the church where a larger number could be accommodated.

The earlier part of the evening was devoted to a social gathering and in which the members of the party enjoyed themselves immensely in an informal hour. At 10 o'clock the ladies served a very dainty and enjoyable luncheon, consisting of sandwiches, cakes and coffee and which gave as a delightful climax of the social portion of the program. Following the luncheon the members of the party adjourned to the main auditorium of the church where the remainder of the evening was spent, the opening portion of this service was in the singing of the old songs and these sweet melodies of memory and fond recollection proved a happy feature of the occasion. This was followed by a film lecture, "The Pioneer Trail", in which the life of the early western workers in the west was shown in the moving pictures, including Oregon settlement, the pioneer mission in the west and the manner in which the cause of the church was brought to the western wilds.

At the approach of the midnight hour the congregation gathered at the pulpit and a consecration service was held with the serving of the communion to the members of the church.

DEATH OF MRS. P. T. BECKER TODAY

Taken Ill On Sunday and Suffering From Effects of Paralysis Caused By Rupture of Blood Vessel.

From Tuesday's Daily. This afternoon at 2:45, Mrs. P. T. Becker died at her home in this city following an illness of a very short duration, she being taken ill on Sunday evening when she suffered what seemed to be a stroke of paralysis. She has been in very serious condition since that time and a specialist from Omaha was called in consultation on the case and from the beginning of her attack her recovery has been a matter of grave doubt.

Mrs. Becker was a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Gruenther, Sr., of this city and has spent practically her entire life in this county residing for the greater part of the time on the farm west of this city. Several months ago the family moved to this city, where they have since made their home. To mourn her death, there remains the husband and one son, John H. Becker, II, seven years of age. The parents and the following brothers and sisters are also left to share the grief that her death has caused: Mrs. John Bauer, Sr., Mrs. H. E. Becker, of this city; Mrs. Geo. Wallinger of Ashland; Mrs. Jacob Johnes of Cedar Creek, and Fred Gruenther, residing west of Plattsmouth.

NEW LAUNDRY WORKING

From Monday's Daily. The Hotel Wagner today commenced the use of their own laundry plant and the laundry of the hotel was put through in record breaking time and the result was the finest and whitest of linen from the new plant that Fred Wagner, the proprietor of the hotel has just had installed. The new machinery is to handle all of the regular linen service of the hotel and is a great money saver as well as much more prompt and convenient when the towels, sheets and table linen were sent out to be laundered.

The new plant is located in the basement of the hotel and for the first day has been a very busy place and when the work is fully under way it will be a great improvement to the service of the hotel. As time progresses Mr. Wagner expects to have the plant enlarged to care for the needs of his guests as well as that of the hotel.

CHANCE FOR CITY DELIVERY HERE IS GOOD

POSTAL DEPARTMENT GIVES ASSURANCE THAT CITY WILL HAVE CLAIMS EXAMINED

The matter of free city mail delivery has been frequently being agitated by the progressive residents of this community as a move to have the city secure one of the privileges of a modern mail system, is at last to have some action taken in the matter by the postal department of the government.

This need of the city delivery has been felt in the past few years as the postoffice here has developed into a first class office and the receipts are more than the amount specified for an office that has delivery. During the time since the matter of delivery was first suggested a number of years ago, an extensive program of sidewalk construction has been carried out by both the city and the individual citizens and which now provides a great system of connecting sidewalks. This removes one of the greatest obstacles that stood in the way of city delivery in the first place and at this time the residents of the city should strive to see that their sidewalks are kept up in first class shape.

The postal department has notified Postmaster D. C. Morgan that they will have an inspector visit the city and look over the conditions that exist here with a view of deciding on the matter of free city delivery. Let the community unite in making the city as convenient as possible as regards sidewalks and means of getting over the city for a mail carrier, as this will be one of the requirements exacted.

Many cities in the state far smaller in population than Plattsmouth have systems of free city delivery and it seems high time that there was a forcible and vigorous effort made to see that this city was placed on the map as far as this modern method of handling mail is concerned.

HISTORICAL NECKLACE TO BE PRESENTED

Mrs. Harriett MacMurphy, Formerly of This City to Give Jewel to State Historical Society.

Presentation of the "Fontenelle" necklace, owned for seventy-five years by Mrs. Henry Fontenelle, pioneer Indian woman, to the Nebraska State Historical Society, in Lincoln, January 11, by Mrs. Harriett S. MacMurphy, of Omaha, will be one of the most historic and interesting features of the forty-fourth annual meeting of that organization. The necklace comprises thirteen large rhinestones set in 18-karat gold. It has been kept for years in a quaint beaded bag given to Mrs. Fontenelle by some of her Indian friends especially for this purpose. The bag will go with the necklace to the State Historical society, says Mrs. Harriett MacMurphy.

Links Three Families The necklace was given by Peter A. Sarry of the famous French and Indian family to his cousin, Emily Pattan, a maiden of the Pawnee Indian tribe, seventy-five years ago. In time Emily married Henry Fontenelle of the Omaha Indian tribe, the necklace thus binding together three of the most noted Indian families of the middle west, the Pattans, the Fontenelles and the Sarrys.

Mrs. Fontenelle, now about 85 years old, placed the necklace in the care of her old friend, Mrs. MacMurphy, last year, with the understanding that it should go to the Nebraska State Historical society. Mrs. Fontenelle, spending the winter with her only living child, Eugene Fontenelle, at Decatur, Neb., and Mrs. Mary Mitchell, a progressive Indian woman from the same town, are expected to attend the presentation ceremonies in Lincoln. Mrs. MacMurphy, a pioneer citizen of Decatur, and long a friend of the Fontenelles, probably is better versed in Nebraska Indian lore than any other person in this section of the state, say her friends.

COURT WORK FOR 1920

In the office of the clerk of the district court for the year 1920, there was filed 188 civil cases which is a showing of much less litigation than the previous year when 255 cases were placed on the docket. For the past year there is a record breaker in the criminal line, not a single case having been filed. In the divorce line the tendency seems to be for happier matrimonial lives among the residents of the community as only 12 decrees of divorce were granted as against 25 for the year of 1919.

In the office of County Judge Allen J. Beeson 144 marriage licenses were issued which shows a slight gain from 1919, when 142 licenses were issued in this office.

We do all kinds of job printing.

SUFFERS SCALP WOUND.

While A. F. Braun, former chief of the fire department, was assisting in the work of fighting the fire at the Warga building early Sunday morning he was injured by having a severe scalp wound inflicted. Mr. Braun was struck a blow on the head when an ax which he was using was checked and as a result it was necessary to have several stitches taken in the head and the injured man made as comfortable as possible. Mr. Braun is one of the experienced firemen of the city and while retired from the department through service he was always willing to assist in the fighting of the flames to save the property of others and his many friends will regret very much to hear of his injury.

NEW YEAR'S CALL OF THE PAST

Visit of Plattsmouth Gentlemen on New Year's Day Brings Back Memories of the Past Festivities

On New Year's day Messrs. R. B. Windham, T. W. Glenn and William McManley spent a short time in the afternoon in following an old time custom that was once so popular, that of making new year calls on their friends. The calls were much enjoyed but not made with the same degree of hilarity as in the days of yore as was shown by the following card which the gentlemen found while they were making a call at the home of Mrs. Rebecca Kennedy, and her daughter, Miss Ella, and which card was left in the custody of the gentlemen.

This card which was presented on New Year's day 1879, was particularly interesting to Mr. Windham, as he was one of the members who were in the merry party. The card is headed "Compliments of the Vulnus Immedicabile Orchestra," and their motto given as "Eat, Drink and be Merry." The members of the party were listed as follows:

- Conductor—Prof. W. W. Drummond, (with a vacuum).
- Mezzo Soprano—Deakin Bushnell (of great capacity).
- Basso Profundo—Prof. E. H. Woolley, (with his heart in his stomach).
- Voice a la Trombone—J. E. Morrison, (always hungry).
- Upper Notes—R. B. Windham, (pie warrier).
- A Flat—E. B. Lewis, (with an empty void).
- Double Basses—E. D. Stone, (satisfied).
- Soloist—Prof. J. W. Love, (with a yawning abyss).

The gentlemen had their price list printed on the card and which at that time produced much merriment among their friends on whom they called. One song was slated at \$2.50, song with chorus at \$3.50 and the full orchestra at \$6.50, but in most cases the good things provided by the parties on whom they called produced the melody without the necessity of appealing to the price list.

In those days there was always something waiting for the merry new year caller and lunches and refreshments were served in royal hospitality as the calls were a regular part of the new year's program. Mr. Glenn states to the Journal reporter that on their visit yesterday they were surprised and while receiving luncheon at the homes failed to receive any of the old time cheer, not even home brew.

ENTERTAIN THE OLD FOLKS NEW YEARS

Party of Local Entertainers Visit Masonic Home on New Year's Day and Assist in Pleasant Program.

On New Year's day the residents of the Nebraska Masonic Home in this city were given a very pleasant treat when a party of Plattsmouth's talented entertainers visited the home and presented a short informal program that was much enjoyed and proved a pleasing diversion of the holiday season.

The party was composed of Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Wescott, Mr. and Mrs. William Baird and Mrs. Allen J. Beeson, and the program they presented was one that made a great impression on the members of the home. Mrs. Wescott gave a number of vocal selections, Mr. Wescott piano numbers while Mrs. Baird and Mrs. Beeson were heard in several of their pleasing readings and Mr. Baird offered a few of the Harry Lauder songs in which he was seen at his best and which were much enjoyed. This kindly spirit shown on the part of the residents of the city to the residents of the home is certainly to be commended and all those in the city who are gifted as entertainers will find that their kindness is very deeply appreciated by the members of the big family at the home.

FARM WANTED.

Wanted to hear from owner of farm or good land for sale worth price asked. L. Jones, Box 551, Olney, Ill.

DEATH COMES TO A PIONEER WOMAN HERE

MRS. J. V. D. PATCH DIED SUDDENLy LAST NIGHT OF HEART TROUBLE AT MASONIC HOME

From Tuesday's Daily.

Last evening at 10 o'clock at the Nebraska Masonic Home in this city occurred the death of Mrs. J. V. D. Patch, one of the pioneer residents of the state and one whose eventful life had brought her many high honors in her associations in the work of the busy world in which she had been a prominent figure.

Mrs. Patch had not been well for some time, but her case was not considered as dangerous and at the time of her death she was conversing with Mrs. Lillian Carragher, head nurse at the home, and pausing for a moment in her conversation she closed her eyes and had passed into the dreamless sleep of death whose awakening knows no call until the end of time.

Mrs. Patch was a pioneer daughter of Nebraska and her life is closely interwoven with many of the historic events of the early days in the territory and state. Pearlite Reed was a daughter of Judge and Mrs. Edward S. Reed, who came to Nebraska in 1859, and was born in Oswego, New York, August 21, 1847. The Reed family on locating in Nebraska City became actively identified with the life of the community and the father, Judge Reed was honored with many offices of honor by his constituents, being register of the land office by appointment of President Lincoln, and also for a number of years probate judge of Otoe county and one of the members of the first legislature of the state when he was elected in 1862 to the present city of Lincoln.

While the family were residing at Nebraska City, the daughter joined with the Methodist church and for many years was very active in the church work and for several years was head of the Epworth League, a subject of our sketch received her education in the public schools of Nebraska City and also graduated at the Tabor college of Tabor, Iowa.

In the year 1862 there arrived at Nebraska City a young man from the east who was an artist and who sent west by the Harper's Weekly to make sketches of life on the frontier, and soon between the daughter of the Reed family and this young man, J. V. D. Patch, there sprang up a warm friendship that culminated in marriage of the young couple on July 4th, 1865, at the home of the parents of the bride, Rev. H. T. Davis, pioneer Methodist minister performing the ceremony that united their lives.

After the marriage the young couple resided in the Otoe county city for a number of years, Mr. Patch abandoning temporarily his work as an artist and entered into the jewelry business and continued in this line of work until in 1870, when the family removed to St. Joseph, Mo. In the Missouri city Mr. Patch won high honors as an artist and the state fame of his work was numbered among the most distinguished in that city and Mr. Patch in his work was given the honor of painting portraits of some of the most distinguished residents of the state and his work is found in a number of the public buildings of that state.

Mrs. Patch was very active during her lifetime in the Eastern Star order and was a charter member of Queen Esther chapter No. 1 of Nebraska City, founded in 1870, and the last female member of the chapter, all having preceded her in death and Mr. Patch is now the sole surviving member. Both Mr. and Mrs. Patch are honorary life members of the St. Joseph chapter of the Eastern Star. She was also president of the social club of the Eastern Star for a period of nine years while a resident of St. Joseph, and was also very active in the work of the Woman's Relief Corps and was at one time president of the department of Missouri Relief Corps and delegate on several occasions to the national encampments. Mrs. Patch was also a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution and had been very active in the work of the society.

She leaves to mourn her passing the aged husband and two children, Mr. Patch being with the wife at the time of her death, they being admitted to the Masonic Home in this city in 1918, and have since made their home here. The children are Mrs. A. F. McKissen of Oakland, California, and E. R. Patch of Chico, California.

Mrs. Patch had during her years of life in St. Joseph, joined the congregational church and was a member of that faith at the time of her death. The funeral services will be held tomorrow afternoon at 1 o'clock at the Masonic Home and the body taken on the 2:30 Missouri Pacific to Nebraska City. Rev. H. G. McClusky will have charge of the services at this place. The burial will be at the Wuyka cemetery in the Otoe county city.

Journal want ads pay. Try them.

SMALL BLAZE NEW YEARS

The New Year was opened with more than usual excitement at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles T. Peacock on Pearl street, when shortly before 8 o'clock Saturday morning the neighbors discovered that the roof of the Peacock home was ablaze. The alarm was turned in and the truck responded at once, but the prompt and effective work of the neighbors and members of the family had put out the fire with but a very small loss to the building. The fire was supposed to have originated in sparks from the chimney alighting on the shingle roof. The prompt work in extinguishing the blaze undoubtedly saved the family from a serious loss as the fire was rapidly gaining headway when discovered.

FIRE DESTROYS A REFRIGERATOR CAR

Small Fire on Dip Track in West Yards of the Burlington Causes \$1,000 Loss This Morning.

From Monday's Daily.

This morning about 4 o'clock, night yardmaster, Lee McCarthy, of the Burlington, discovered a refrigerator car that was standing on the "dip track" just this side of the pumping station of the water company, in flames. The crew in the yard and the switch engine was hurried to the scene of action and the cars which were near the burning car were removed to a point of safety, and the refrigerator car which was wrapped in flames was left to burn out as it was wholly useless to attempt to save it, the water supply being too far away to do any good. The examination made of the car when the fire was first discovered indicates that the blaze had been set by someone, as from the indications there had been a fire built in the interior of the car and this had burned a hole in the floor and spread to the rest of the car. The loss was complete as far as the body of the car was concerned, only the truck remaining to indicate that there had ever been a car there. The loss to the Burlington was \$1,000. Owing to the distance from the city fire limits the general alarm was not given.

SENIOR LITERARY.

This year it is planned to again take up literary work in the high school, following the plan, whereby each of the four classes will give a literary program during the course of the year. The general plan calls for all the various phases of literary work, such as readings, essays, debates and short plays. Of course, there will be vocal and instrumental solos also.

The senior class will give the first of the four programs, and from all indications this coming event will be one of the "best letter" days of their school experiences. Nothing has been permitted to interfere with the preparation of the numbers to be presented and all are looking for a very successful and beneficial evening.

The question for debate is resolved, "that the literary test restriction on immigration should be repealed." This question is a popular one and has been adopted as the question of debate in the Nebraska High School League. To add spice and enthusiasm to this number the seniors have challenged the juniors as opponents and will be represented by Gladys Liston and Fern Noble on the affirmative, while Carl Wurl and John Ptak will present the negative argument for the juniors.

A small charge of fifteen cents will be charged.

URGING MANY NEEDED REFORMS

J. A. Leavitt, Superintendent of Society of Friendless, Visits This City in His Work.

From Monday's Daily.

This morning J. D. Leavitt of Omaha, superintendent of the Society of the Friendless of the state, was in Plattsmouth in the interests of his work and of the society which is striving for the betterment of the conditions that cause crime and suffering among the people of the state. Dr. Leavitt has long been connected with this society and his endeavors in his chosen field has brought forth much good among the unfortunate with whom he is working every day of the year.

The purpose of the society is that of the reclamation and cure of crime, the reclamation and restoration of the criminal and the relief of the needy and the distressed and in these lines they have done much good in their quiet and little advertised way. Dr. Leavitt personally has been in close touch with the suffering among the unfortunate in the cities of the prisons of the state and his constant effort has been to see that the causes that lead to these conditions are wiped out as well as the restoration of manhood and respectability to those who have paid the price to society for their misdeeds, and to make society more suited to creating a higher time of man or woman by wiping out the things that leads to crime of all kinds.

At this time he has several propositions that are worthy of the thoughtful attention of the people of the state in the wiping out of many of the unhealthy conditions that tend to breed the criminal. One of these is a custodial farm for men where those who are confined in jail for way extended period can be employed at useful labor and their good qualities be developed. The institution of a farm for epileptics is another of the measures that is urged by Dr. Leavitt and his society, as there is not a single state institution where these cases can be handled as they should be, as they are either taken care of in the state insane hospitals or in the feeble minded institutions, where the conditions are far from what they should be in caring for cases of this kind.

The society has itself done much good in securing reforms, particularly in the management and care of the occupants of the state prisons. It secured the passage of the measure for the custodial farm for women, the court of domestic relation, and the mother's pension law. In the year 1912 the society through its president, Judge Lincoln Frost, exposed the conditions at the state penitentiary and also in a number of the county jails over the state and saw that these reforms were carried out and the conditions made more civilized.

The Society of the Friendless and Dr. Leavitt are certainly deserving of any aid and support that can be given them in making for a cleaner and better standard of society.

COLLAR BONE FRACTURED

While Herbert Johnson, son of Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Johnson, of this city, was engaged in riding on the rear of a wagon Friday afternoon, he was thrown off and as the result suffered a fracture of the left collar bone. The injured boy was taken to the office of a surgeon where the injury was looked after and the victim made as comfortable as possible. As the result of the accident Herbert will wear the arm and shoulder in a sling for a number of weeks.

Fine stationery. Journal office.

"Fifty-Fifty"

There are two sides to "Trade-at-Home" agitation.

The merchant has a right to expect the patronage of fellow townsmen. Fellow townsmen have the right to expect honest quality and fair prices from the merchant.

Plattsmouth has no reason to fear outside competition if we will all work together on a fifty-fifty basis.

THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK
THE BANK WHERE YOU FEEL AT HOME
PLATTSMOUTH NEBRASKA